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Letter dated 18 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 17 November 1998 (A/53/ -S/1998/), I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 16 and 17 November 1998.

On 16 November, one C-130 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostle Andreas before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1124 hours of the same day, returning back to the Ankara FIR.

On 17 November, eight military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (4 RF-4, 2 F-4, 1 CN-235 and 1 C-130) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The four RF-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, the first two flying over and along the areas of the Cape of Kormakitis, Karpasia and the Cape of Cavo Greco, while the other two flew along the areas of the Cape of Kormakitis, Nicosia and Famagusta; all four aircraft returned afterwards to the Ankara FIR. The C-130 and CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, whence they departed towards the Ankara FIR at 1043 hours and 1104 hours, respectively. The two F-4 also returned to the Ankara FIR after their flight inside the Nicosia FIR.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time are in contravention to

the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency and intensity of airspace violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish miliary occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative